

Small Group Discussion Questions Sumter County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Visioning process (learn)
- Project Turnaround
- Manufacturing technology
- Sumter career readiness
- Community (involve businesses into partnerships with schools)
- COC and Visioning
- Higher education involvement in schools
- Middle school career counselors
- Success By Six
- Hope Centers
- After school programs-(mobile magnets
- Boys and Girls
- Reach out and Read
- Chamber SEC. Ed Comm.
- Early Head Start
- Adult / Literacy Center
- Health Reach
- Family Outreach in every school / Full-time
- Morris College mentors programs show AFB
- Career specialists in middle schools

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Financial resources
- Apathy
- Anti public education climate
- Societal changes
- Human and physical resources
- Lack of business mentors
- Overwhelming- solve “all” problems social, physical, etc
- Track and target success of individual programs.
- What does PACT-HSAP really measure?
- Wasting money

- Schools get no feedback on what students miss on the tests (How can teachers improve without feedback?)(Need to use the normal national test like other states use.)
- Poverty
- Need smaller classes and year round, longer instructing days.
- Extended day/ extra curricular activities in elementary.
- Recess gone
- Children having children
- Breakdown in traditional family from a support stand point
- Discipline-lack of respect by student, lack of parenting
- Understanding diverse, cultures, economic, and language barriers
- Emergence of gangs and bullying.

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Adequate funding
- Commitment to public education
- Experience rich culture
- Coordination of services
- Improved alternative student services
- More than minimal financial resources
- Provide one-on-one mentoring from business community
- Positive support from business community.
- Technical-track alternatives for success
- Talk to businesses
- Take advantage of personal relationships in the community.
- More alternative learning centers and paths for students
- Go back to community schools
- Community-wide mentor/ tutor program
- Community-wide focus on the importance of education
- Open and honest, 2-way communication between schools and business community.
- Exit survey of families leaving.

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Mentor
- Ask questions
- Communicate with legislators.